



## JFK Lancer Online Resources

### PAUL C. PETERS, MD: THIRTY YEARS AFTER WARREN

Brad J. Parker

During the writing of his book, *Case Closed*, Gerald Posner seems to have conveniently solved the mystery of the discrepancy in President Kennedy's wounds between Dallas and Bethesda. Physicians who treated the President in Dallas recanted their original statements, claiming that they did not examine the wounds in detail (Posner 309).

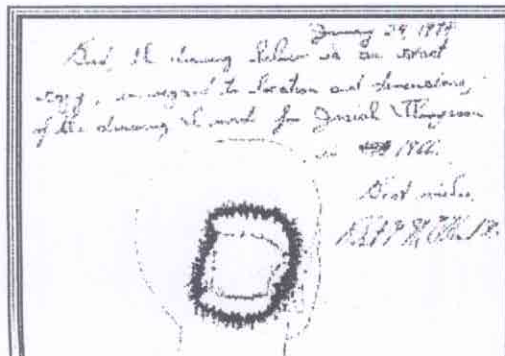
Mr. Posner leaves the impression that Ronald C. Jones, MD has also amended his previous testimony after an interview with the doctor in April of 1992 (Posner 312). However, when interviewed two months later, Dr. Jones stated that "I would stand by my original impression" of the wounds sustained by the President (Jones June 19, 1992). At first glance, it appears as though Mr. Posner has reported a change of opinion by Paul C. Peters, MD. However, subsequent contact with Dr. Peters with this author suggests that perhaps Mr. Posner did not fully explore Dr. Peters' memory and opinion of the President's head wound.

In testifying before the Warren Commission on March 24, 1964, Dr. Peters stated that he "noticed that there was a large defect in the occiput." He went on to describe what "appeared to be a bone loss and brain loss...in the right occipitoparietal area." When asked if he observed a wound below the large occipital injury, Dr. Peters said that he did not. Even though he did not actually observe the throat wound prior to the tracheotomy, he apparently had reason to believe that it was an entrance wound. "We speculated as to whether he had been shot once or twice because we saw the entry in the throat and noted the large occipital wound," he told Arlen Specter. It is not surprising that Mr. Specter did not return to the issue of "the entry in the throat" (6 WCH 71).

Dr. Peters subsequently described the severity of the intracranial injury to numerous researchers.

"I could see the occipital lobes clearly, and so I know it was that far back on the skull. I could look inside the skull, and I thought it looked like the cerebellum was injured, or missing, because the occipital lobes seemed to rest almost on the foramen magnum." Furthermore, he stated that "the cerebellum, and brainstem, might have been injured, or missing" (Lifton 324).

Gerald Posner's interview with Dr. Peters failed to yield any specific location for the wound. "The only thing I would say is that over the last twenty-eight years, I now believe the head wound was more forward than I first placed it. More to the side than to the rear." After clearly describing the damage to the cerebellum, and perhaps the brainstem, in previous statements, he told Posner, "I saw the photograph of the brain when I was in Washington for the 'Nova' program, and I saw the cerebellum was depressed, but not lacerated or torn. It was definitely pressed down and that would be that damage I referred to in 1964" (Posner 311). And with that, Mr. Posner asserts that the medical controversy resulted from errors of epidemic proportions among the Parkland trauma team.



<http://www.jfklancer.com/Peters.html>

Dr. McClelland's  
1966 drawing of  
President Kennedy's  
head wound,  
commented on by  
Dr. Peters